

THIS I BELIEVE LA ESSAY

SVENA YU (24) 305

PLANET EARTH AND US

As Henry David Thoreau, an American author, naturalist and philosopher had expressed, "*What is the use of a house if you haven't got a tolerable planet to put it on?*" I for one, completely believe in the trueness of that sentence as my personal gripe had, always, always been about the environment, the dying soul of the earth; though at the same time, I cannot help but feel hypocritical about myself.

I care about the environment and about what the future holds for it, yet I also acknowledge that I do not put in enough effort to make enough of a difference. I do not deny that I appreciate the roaring power of cars on the street, the *sweet, slim* and subtle Ferraris and BMWs that zoom past on the sun-baked tar roads, the numerous malls and cinema theatres and last but not least, the fast food franchises and the awing technology like touch phones and the internet which I, too appreciate. *How* can anyone live without all these modern everyday-life necessities?

The answer is never too simple, because we all know that we cannot break away from what we have become- *spoiled by* modern technology and are practically unable to survive without all the comforting infrastructure and amenities that generations have strived and built. I look at the looming towers glowing with lights and the shiny and beautiful exteriors of buildings in the night sky and they were indeed beautiful- all the wonders of architecture and engineering goes into each and every block but at the same time, I feel disgusted by my awe when I think back about the environment that had to be destroyed to make way for these towers and skyscrapers just because of humanities' greed and their undying need for progress and how these constructions are still continuing killing the fragile earth.

Yet, many adults still refuse to admit that they are pushing Earth's limits and stubbornly insist that there is nothing wrong. Why can they not see what is before their eyes? Or rather, they deny what they see because it is simple too troublesome and too inconvenient for them to accept.

When will we unite together and each play the part we are supposed to play and save our home? When will we ever learn that in order to save ourselves, we have to save our home and its inhabitants because without our home we are not able to survive? We have to start respecting the fragile yet formidable Mother Nature and Earth, because, "*If the earth does grow inhospitable toward human presence, it is primarily because we have lost our sense of courtesy toward the earth and its inhabitants. (Thomas Berry)*".

Being humans blessed with the ability to think and decide our actions, we should never forget that we are created by this Earth and that we depend on it. We should

never forget that being intelligent is never a license in itself to destroy and purge this world of its inhabitants and itself.